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From: Laidlaw, Tina
Sent: Fri 2/27/2015 10:43:04 PM
Subject: EPA Action on Montana's Numeric Nutrient Criteria and Variance Rules
[Montana Nutrient Rules Action Letter.pdf](#)

Two Updates:

• I thought folks might be interested in seeing EPA Region's action letter on Montana nutrients. See the email below and attached letter. Congratulations to MDEQ!

• I've heard from a few folks that there is interest in setting up a series of conference calls to discuss HABS-related issues and state efforts to develop HABS monitoring programs. Watch for a calendar invitation on that subject here shortly. Look forward to getting those discussions rolling.

Otherwise, hope everyone is doing well. Keep up the great work!

Tina

EPA received Montana's nutrient rule submission on August 15, 2014. The submission included a number of provisions related to nutrients including:

- Adoption of numeric nutrient criteria for wadeable streams;

- Adoption of numeric nutrient criteria for segments of the Yellowstone River;
- General variances for public and private dischargers applicable for up to 20 years to waters with numeric nutrient criteria; and
- Individual variance procedures applicable to waters with numeric nutrient criteria.

The EPA has completed its review of the state's WQS submission and finds they are consistent with the CWA and the implementing WQS Regulation. The attached letter contains a more detailed rationale for today's action.

Please call or email with any questions.

Tina

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